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## FACT SHEET

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November 2013

### Improving Trial Court Facilities: Calaveras County Courthouse, San Andreas

The new Calaveras County Courthouse replaces the court's overcrowded space in the County Legal Building and adjacent modular unit, consolidating services under one roof to provide more efficient operations and better access to justice for Calaveras County residents.



<b>Location:</b>	400 Government Center Drive, San Andreas
<b>Purpose:</b>	Replace the overcrowded and inadequate existing courthouse space in the County Legal Building and adjoining modular unit to better serve Calaveras County's growing population.
<b>Capacity:</b>	Two-story building; 4 courtrooms in 44,600 square feet
<b>Project cost:</b>	\$45.4 million for all project costs, \$40.4 million construction contract amount, completed under budget.
<b>Funded by:</b>	Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, which established a revenue source of court user fees for judicial branch courthouse projects
<b>Architect:</b>	DLR Group
<b>Construction:</b>	McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.
<b>Project timeline:</b>	Received initial funding in fiscal year 2007–2008. The 6.9-acre site was acquired from the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors in August 2009. Construction began in February 2012 and was completed under budget in November 2013. The building opens for public court business on November 25, 2013.

### **The Need**

The previous courthouse was the County Legal Building: Space was shared with the County Board of Supervisors. Space in the old courthouse was inadequate, forcing the court to lease office space in a nearby modular unit. A courtroom in the historic courthouse, now a museum, was sometimes pressed into service. The three facilities were inadequate to meet the needs of the court and county residents. Among numerous functional and efficiency problems in the previous courthouse:

- Waiting area for clerk services was nearly non-existent, and lines spilled into the hallway and out the front door.
- Audience seating in one of the courtrooms was too small to accommodate high-volume proceedings, such as arraignments.
- Most features such as service counters, courtrooms, restrooms in the previous courthouse space did not meet accessibility requirements. There were also numerous safety issues.
- Deputies escorted defendants in chains to courtrooms through non-secure public corridors.
- The building suffers from outdated HVAC, electric, and plumbing systems, outdated IT infrastructure, poor ventilation and climate-control issues, asbestos in the ceiling, and inadequate space for public services, staff workspace, and storage.

### **Local Government Collaboration**

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors has been an active supporter of the project throughout its six-year history. The County agreed to sell to the state its 6.9 acre property at 400 Government Center Drive, near the County Government Center and adjoining the new county jail and sheriff administration offices, for the new courthouse.

During the site selection and acquisition phase, local members of the Project Advisory Group (including members of the Calaveras Superior Court, local government representatives, and other justice partners) viewed and ranked prospective sites based on standard criteria.

### **More Information**

Project Web Page: [www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-calaveras.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-calaveras.htm)

For further information, please contact Keby Boyer, Office of Communications, 415-865-7705 or [keby.boyer@jud.ca.gov](mailto:keby.boyer@jud.ca.gov).